

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 24-36, 42-44, and 90-96 are pending in this application. Claims 1-23, 37-41, 45, and 79-89 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 24 has been amended. Support for the amended claim can be found in the specification. No new matter has been added.

Interview with Examiner

Applicant would like to thank Examiner Carlson for the telephonic interview conducted for this application on August 12, 2004. Applicant has amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner.

The Claims

Restriction Requirement/Consolidated Prosecution

During the telephonic interview conducted on August 12, 2004, Applicant's representatives discussed the implication of the consolidated examination on the application. During the discussions, the Examiner indicated that he would reconsider the restriction requirement between groups III and VIII.

35 U.S.C. § 101 Rejections

Claims 24-36

Claims 24-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Applicant has amended claim 26 as suggested by the Examiner. Applicant submits that claim 24, as amended, complies with 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claims 25-36, which depend from claim 24, also comply with 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Claims 42-44 and 90-96

The 35 U.S.C. § 101 compliance of these claims was discussed with the Examiner. The Examiner agreed that the claims, as pending, are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Appl. No. 09/747,776
Amdt. dated August 19, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 19, 2004


PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


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